

sequence is thought to have had the behind-the-scenes blessing of pro-Soviet party president Luigi Longo, who during Berlinguer's heyday had been reduced to a virtual figurehead.

In addition, the once-powerful Giorgio Amendola, the leader of the party's right-wing faction and the major mediator between Italy's Communists and such Rockefeller-linked institutions as the New York Council on Foreign Relations, was politically invisible at the plenum. According to press reports, Amendola is being eased out of control of the party's economic think-tank CESPE which he founded, along with his protégé, the pro-austerity economist and CESPE director Eugenio Peggio. Well-informed sources in Italy also note that the Communist Parties semi-dormant factory worker networks are being rejuvenated, with anti-Soviet functionaries being pushed aside to make room for emerging — and returning — working class leaders. This upheaval at the level of the party's sensitive trade-union base is reportedly providing the sociological leverage behind the "coup" in the Central Committee.

The delivery of the keynote address at the plenum by Gianni Cervetti, instead of Berlinguer, is in itself most unusual. During the 1975 Congress Cervetti was elevated to the Secretariat, the top party executive body, as a reputed protégé of Berlinguer, but he has close personal and political ties to Moscow. He emerged into prominence during the initial phases of the anti-Amendola shift which occurred two months ago at the last CC meeting.

Seasoning his remarks with frequent references to the assent of the mute "Comrade Berlinguer," Cervetti outlined an organizing plea for a united front of all Italian democratic parties in which the Communists would be prepared to enter a coalition government — an offer *formally* not unlike that put forward previously by the New York Council on Foreign Relations as a means to use the Communists to police austerity among Italy's workers. However, the Cervetti speech is not likely to please Berlinguer's erstwhile New York mentors, since Cervetti premised the Communists' government bid on agreement on a new economic policy — a policy defined in the official party daily *l'unita* on Dec. 13 as a new monetary system based on a decisive break with the dollar. Further, Cervetti stressed that the Communist Party must be "a governing party as well as a party of popular struggle," and defined the content of "popular struggle" by outlining a policy of education for Commu-

nist cadres. A special worker's conference was announced for a later date.

Following Cervetti's report, the two major presentations by Central Committee members which dominated the meeting were even more emphatic in breaking ground for a return to pro-Soviet policies. This first was by Armando Cossutta, a veteran of the Milan Resistance movement with a large personal power base who guided the party's role in Italian trade with Comecon for many years and whose exclusion from the Secretariat at the 1975 Congress was widely regarded as a deliberate signal of the party's distance from Moscow. In a parry at Berlinguer's oft-quoted pleading for an "autonomous West European communism," Cossutta lamented that there has been too much emphasis on the adjective "new" in describing the processes of the Italian Communists, forgetting the concept of internationalism "which remains one of the particular concepts of communist parties." Cossutta also called for accentuating the traditions of Gramsci and Lenin, precedents which (particularly in the case of Lenin) have been explicitly downplayed and rejected by the Italian Communists ever since Berlinguer at the Thirteenth Congress announced the party's willingness to tolerate NATO.

Berlinguer's pro-NATO, "Eurocommunist" policies were treated to even more pointed barbs by Ambrogio Donini, the head of the Party's Central Control Commission and the last surviving member of a group of older "Stalinist" party leadership who took an uncompromising pro-Soviet stance during the factional controversies of the 1960s. Since those battles were won by the Amendola-Berlinguer group, Donini has been silent or excluded from the press. Last week, however, he took the floor to denounce the terminology "Eurocommunism as the word does not come from our party," and implies a "division into two parts of the European working-class movement." Donini decried the fact that "some" have even asked for NATO to "protect" Italy's independence.

The new public form of the Italian Communists' policies was heralded with fanfare at last week's Congress of the Communist Party of San Marino, considered a virtual appendage of the mighty Italian CP. *Pravda* reports, with obvious satisfaction, that the Soviet delegation was "warmly greeted" by the San Marino party's head Barulli who in his keynote address welcomed the Soviets as representatives of a "bastion of peace and progress" and called for even more active Soviet support for international cooperation.

Portuguese Elections Results Stir Waters for Soares

Dec. 14 (NSIPS) — The ruling Portuguese Socialist Party received 33 per cent of the total votes in local elections in Portugal this week. The PSP's tally is down 2 per cent from the legislative elections last April. The Portuguese Communist Party won 18 per cent of the total vote with particularly high results in the industrial and agrarian reform areas concentrated in southern Portugal. The PCP's 18 percent total is 3 percent its total

in April and the party's daily *O'Diario* declared that the legislative elections have "increased the real possibilities for the defense of the democratic conquests" of the 1975 Portuguese Revolution. The party has now gained control of the majority of the local governing bodies throughout the Lisbon industrial belt and the Alentejo region.

The right-wing Popular Democratic Party (PPD) and

the Social Democratic Party (CDS) received 24 per cent and 16 per cent respectively of the vote — the same as the last election. The Maoist coalition of General Saraiva de Carvalho who received 16 per cent in the recent presidential elections — received only 3 per cent of the vote this week.

The pattern of election results will make it more difficult for Socialist Premier Mario Soares to carry out the austerity measures demanded by Portugal's creditors. The New York Times, acknowledging this,

called upon Soares to form a coalition with the right-wing PPD to promote "political stability." Soares, however, is not likely to form such a coalition due to the uproar that it would cause within his own party and among working-class and military forces. Just before returning from a trip to Rumania, for example, Revolutionary Council — the governing body of the military — member Admiral Vitor Crespo warned at a press conference in Bucharest Dec. 10 that it is the mission of the Revolutionary Council to guarantee "that there will be no return to a past that the Portuguese people clearly rejected."

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan: Prying the West Bank from King Hussein

Dec. 14 (NSIPS) — A little known but highly significant diplomatic process is underway concerning the desert Kingdom of Jordan, ruled by one of the Middle East's remaining monarchs, King Hussein. The object of this diplomatic intervention into Jordan, including efforts by Britain, India, the Soviet Union, and several Eastern European socialist countries, is to persuade the Jordanians to relinquish their claim to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, taken from Palestine by Jordan in 1950 and subsequently occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six Day War.

Although Jordan officially renounced its claim to the West Bank in November, 1974 at an Arab Summit meeting in Rabat, Morocco, which recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, King Hussein has refused to abandon the Kingdom's hardly legal links with the populous West Bank.

The PLO decision this week to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state on any territory evacuated by Israel is widely taken to mean that the PLO — currently discussing the creation of a government-in-exile — would be willing to set up an independent Palestinian nation on the West Bank and possibly the Gaza strip in Sinai.

Jordan's Development

The key leverage point with which pro-peace outside forces are attempting to negotiate with King Hussein is the promise of agricultural and industrial development of the barren nation. Both the Soviet Union and the British are involved in this process. In doing so, they are appealing to the fledgling Jordanian state-owned industrial sector and various national banking and mining interests who, presumably, are less interested in the West Bank than in economic progress. The British have the advantage of an entire network of agents and sympathizers within the country dating back to colonial and neo-colonial days, when the British ran the country,

especially the military.

"Frankly, the West Bank is a lost cause," an Amman banker told the *Baltimore Sun* last month. "If we got it back, we would be getting back the Palestinian question, and that we do not want." The sources expressed a desire to engage in national economic reconstruction rather than play West Bank politics. In some circle, the leader of this tendency is Jordan's Prince Hassan, the brother of the king.

In early November, 1976, Prince Hassan paid an extended visit to Great Britain. He arrived on Nov. 6, and conferred with top British economics officials. According to the *Jordan Times*, the British agreed to a comprehensive program for rebuilding the Jordanian economy, and promised to "take an active part in Jordan's development effort." A high-level British commercial delegation is to visit Jordan this month to consolidate the wide-ranging accords, which include the development of Jordan's rich phosphate deposits.

Then, in late November, Prince Hassan paid a week-long visit to India, where he held a series of meetings with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and several top ministers. Hassan signed two accords there, one for economic and technical cooperation, and a protocol on science and technology, both to run five years. India, one of the strongest political supporters of the PLO and a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, was thought to have sought assurances that Jordan would stubbornly refuse to go along with the moves toward a Middle East peace.

Even more surprising is the extent of Soviet and East European involvement in Jordanian development. On Nov. 13, a large Soviet team of oil experts arrived in Jordan on a three-week visit to begin exploration for petroleum deposits in eastern Jordan. The Soviet oil group had been preceded on Nov. 2 by a group of Soviet electrification technicians. Economic delegations from Poland, Hungary, and the German Democratic Republic arrived in Jordan during November.